

**IV. Remarks and Conclusion**

This application was filed with claims 15-31.

Claims 15-17 have been withdrawn.

Claims 18-31 (the apparatus claims) have been elected.

Claim 19 has been amended to correct an inadvertent/typographical error.

The election was discussed with Examiner Upton by telephone on September 20, 2004. It was concluded that the election should be made in writing.

In addition, the cross-reference to related applications has been amended so as to reflect the subsequent issue of patent number 6,740,232.

Examination of this application with claims 18-31 is sought and allowance is urged.

If there are any questions or issues regarding this matter, please call applicant's attorney, Gerald S. Geren at (312) 214-4803.

Date: September 22, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald S. Geren". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gerald" and last name "Geren" clearly distinguishable.

Gerald S. Geren  
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